REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification is revised, claims 1, 5, 7, 8 and 13 are amended, claims 3, 6 and 9 are cancelled, and claims 21-23 are added. This leaves claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10-24 pending in the application, with claims 1, 13 and 21 being independent.

Objections To Application

The abstract is objected to for a typographical error in line 1 thereof. The correction made hereinabove corrects that typographical error. The addition of a second "to" in line 1 appears unnecessary.

Page 6 of the specification is revised to correct the reference to the serial number and to update that reference with the corresponding U.S. patent.

The language in original claim 7 is amended to read "interacting stopping means" to more clearly conform to the descriptive portion of the specification. This language refers to the stopping means 26 on the actuating elements 8 and 9 and the stopping means 27 on drive element 18, which stopping means interact for limiting displacement of the actuating elements.

Thus, the objections raised in the Office Action are believed to be obviated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claim 1 is amended to essentially recite the limitations of original claims 1, 8 and 9, but without the contact member having a second energy storing element. In this manner, amended claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable by the recitation of first and second actuating elements eccentrically connected on the rotatably mounted drive element as indicated on page 8 of the Office Action.

Specifically, claim 1 covers a device 1 for electrically connecting a connecting line to an electrode 44 comprising a housing 6, a contact member 3 in the housing for connection to a

contact pin 43, first and second actuating elements 8 and 9, and a drive element 18. The contact member has a first energy storage element 4 for spring biasing the contact member to engage the contact pin. The actuating elements are movably mounted in the housing to deflect and move the contact member to an open position to receive the contact pin. The drive element is rotatably mounted in the housing, with the actuating elements being eccentrically connected on the drive element.

By forming the device in this manner, a relatively simple and inexpensive structure is provided which can be easily applied to an electrode with low application force, while providing a reliable and strong connection with the electrode.

Original claims 1, 2 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,165,141 to Williams. The Williams patent is cited for a connector having a housing 11, a first contact member 21 with an energy storage element 18 for biasing the contact member to engage contact pin 13, and an actuating element for deflecting the storage element 18 and moving the contact member to an open position to receive the contact pin.

However, in the Williams device, the contact plates have spring fingers 28 and 29 which engage the stud 13. A single lateral locking bar has an opening which initially receives the contact pin and then, as the locking bar is shifted, moves the stud along cam surface 17 into engagement with the contact fingers 28 and 29. The spring urged ball 18 does not bias these fingers, but merely locks the bar in one of its two positions by its engagement with the cutouts 19 and 20. Thus, the Williams patent does not anticipate or render obvious the two actuating elements eccentrically coupled to a rotatably mounted drive element of claim 1.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Williams patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,454,739 to Strand and EP 0 325,573 A2. In support of

the rejection, it is contended that it would be obvious to use the materials of the Strand and the EP patents to form the housing of the Williams patent.

Original claims 1, 2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,895,298 to Faupel (such patent being omitted from the listing of cited patents of the Office Action). The Faupel patent is cited for a connector having a housing 12, a first contact member 62 with an energy storage element 56 for biasing the contact member into engagement with a contact pin, and a single actuating element 48 for defecting the energy storage element and moving the contact member to an open position. Additionally, the Faupel patent is cited for a medical skin electrode and as having a second contact member 64, relative to claims 2 and 8, respectively.

However, the Faupel single actuator button 18 slides laterally without rotation and directly engages the outwardly angled ends of conductive arms 24-26 or spring wires 54-56. No rotatable drive element is coupled to the Faupel actuator button. Thus, the Faupel patent does not anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1.

Original claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,468,073 to Machcinski. The Machcinski patent is cited for a connector having a housing 10, a first contact member 16 mounted in the housing with an energy storage element 24 and an actuating element 38 to move the contact member to an open position. The recitation of the connection to a contact pin is viewed as being a statement of intended use and given little patentable weight. The actuating element 38 is considered to be eccentrically mounted on drive element 48.

However, the Machcinski connector has only a single pusher block or actuating element 38 for each opposed pair of contacts 16. Its actuating bar 48 is rotatable, is non-symmetrical in transverse cross-section and is in sliding contact with the bottom of block 38 to raise and lower the

block in different rotational positions as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The Machcinski connector does not have two actuating elements eccentrically connected to a rotating drive element, as claimed, as thus, does not anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1.

The remaining cited patents do not cure the deficiencies discussed above relative to the Williams, Faupel and Machcinski patents.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10-12, being dependent upon claim 1, are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these claims are further distinguished by the additional limitations recited therein. Specifically, the medical skin electrode of claim 2, the eccentrically extended contact surface of claim 4, the interacting stopping means of claim 7, the second energy storing element of claim 8, the housing top of claim 10, and the materials of claims 11-12, are not anticipated or rendered obvious particularly within the overall claimed combinations. Since the subject matter for claim 5 is already indicated as being allowable, the record will not be burdened with further comments thereon.

Similarly, claims 13-20 are allowed such that the record will not be burdened with further comments thereon, except that claim 13 is amended to correct a minor typographical error.

New claim 21 combines the limitations of original claims 1, 3 and 6, and thus, constitutes original claim 6 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 6 is indicated as being allowable, claim 21 should also be allowable.

Claims 22 and 23, being dependent upon claim 21, are also allowable for the above reasons relative to claim 21 and for the additional reasons discussed above relative to claims 4 and 7.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10-23 are allowable. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Nov. 14, 2005